

## Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EA-06 VO-03 SCA-01 H-02 FDRE-00

AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 DODE-00 SP-02 /062 W

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O 291500Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 719

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 2513

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMG, SG

SUBJ: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: STATE 097854

SUMMARY: IN PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S ABSENCE FONMIN ASSANE SECK RECEIVED AMBASSADOR APR 28 AND HEARD ORAL DEMARCHE ON RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. SECK PRAISED US POLICY ON ISSUE, SAID GOS AS GENERAL PRINCIPLE APPROVED EFFORTS TO ASSIST REFUGEES, BUT INDICATED POLITICAL ASPECTS OF MATTER WERE SUCH THAT PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S VIEWS WOULD BE DETERMINANT IN ANY ACTION POLICY. END SUMMARY.

1. FON MIN SECK WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSION OF CURRENT SITUATION IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. AFTER BRIEF REVIEW OF LATEST USG PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON EACH SITUATION AMB TURNED TO REFUGEE ISSUE AND PRESENTED SIX POINTS OF REFTEL.

2. SECK SAID USG DESERVED PRAISE FOR NOT ABANDONING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND ASKED WHAT TOTAL NR MIGHT BE. HE WAS IMPRESSED WHEN I INDICATED FIGURE MIGHT REACH 130,000. FONMIN POINTED TO SENEGAL'S RECORD IN ACCEPTING REFUGEES. THERE ARE MORE THAN MILLION FROM GUINEA/CONAKRY, GUINEA-  
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BISSAU AND HAITI. MOST OF THESE WERE AFRICANS

OR PERSONS OF AFRICAN ANCESTRY. HOWEVER, SENEGAL HAD LONG TRADITION OF CONTACT WITH VIETNAM AND MANY FAMILIES, INCLUDING HIS OWN, HAD SOME VIETNAMESE RELATIVES. ADJUSTMENT OF VIETNAMESE WAR BRIDES HAD BEEN NO PROBLEM. WITH RECENT PROBLEM OF DROUGHT AND GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION SENEGAL MIGHT NOT BE SO WELL-EQUIPPED TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL STRANGERS. IN ANY EVENT, CHOICE OF THOSE SENEGAL MIGHT ACCEPT, IF DECISION TO RECEIVE VIETNAMESE OR CAMBODIAN REFUGEES WERE MADE, WOULD CERTAINLY BE CONDITIONED BY REFUGEES' QUALIFICATIONS IN TERMS OF LOCAL MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS. FINAL DECISION, SECK SAID, WOULD REQUIRE PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S REVIEW OF SITUATION SINCE IT WAS POLITICAL AS WELL AS HUMANITARIAN QUESTION. AS AMBASSADOR WOULD BE SEEING PRESIDENT, FOLLOWING HIS RETURN APR 30 AND DEPARTURE FOR NORTH AMERICA MAY 16, MATTER SHOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH HIM. FON MIN WOULD BRIEF HIM ON SUBJECT.

3. COMMENT: IN MAKING DECISION, GOS WILL CONSIDER FACT IT HAS RECOGNIZED BOTH GRUNK AND PRG. WE HAVE FOUND GOS APPRECIATES ISSUES MORE THOROUGHLY WHEN PROVIDED AIDE MEMOIRE OR NOTE ON SUBJECT. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE SUCH DOCUMENT WITH ANY ADDITIONAL POINTS DEPT CONSIDERS ESSENTIAL FOR SENEGALESE SITUATION. I WILL RAISE MATTER WITH PRES. SENGHOR WHEN HE GRANTS ME APPOINTMENT. AGGREY

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